

Question for written answer E-002923/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Checking potential cartels, territorial restrictions and coordinated practices in the European supermarket and basic consumer goods market

Prices of basic foods and everyday consumer goods are continuing to climb in many Member States, placing a disproportionate burden on households. However, this increase has not been reflected in the primary sector, where producers, including those in Greece, often do not receive higher prices. Nonetheless, final shelf prices continue to rise significantly, reinforcing concerns about distortions in the value chain.

At the same time, several European markets are seeing significant price differences for similar or identical products, as well as increased concentration in the retail sector and in the supply of basic goods. The presence of large multinational groups, possible territorial restrictions and the limited bargaining power of producers and smaller suppliers amplify concerns of poorly functioning competition.

With this in mind, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Does it intend to examine, in cooperation with national competition authorities, possible coordinated practices, cartel-like behaviour or indirect price harmonisation in the European supermarket sector?
2. Will it strengthen the tools for monitoring prices and profit margins in the agri-food chain, with a view to combating high prices?
3. Does it intend to propose a stronger European framework for checking for territorial supply constraints, concentration in the food market and practices of multinational groups that may lead to unjustifiably higher prices for consumers in smaller or more vulnerable markets, such as Greece?

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